Exploration of new oil and gas reserves

†* 140. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has found some new oil and gas reserves within the country and in coastal regions of the country in May, 2007;

(b) if so, the names of States where these oil and gas reserves have been found; and

(c) by when these oil and gas reserves could be utilized commercially?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): Yes, Sir. During the month of May, 2007, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has made six new oil and gas discoveries, *viz.,* two each in Assam and Gujarat and one each in Tripura and Andhra Pradesh.

Out of these, two oil and gas discoveries in the states of Assam have been put on production as the required surface facilities/infrastructure were available near the discovery wells. Remaining four discoveries are at various stages of delineation/ appraisal.

The time taken for development of oil & gas discoveries is normally about 3 to 8 years depending upon the location of discovery, availability of infrastructure and markets in and around the discovery area.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Direct flight from far East countries to Delhi and Gaya

899. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourists and pilgrims from the far East countries and specially China are interested in visiting India, but there are hardly any air connections;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to connect Beijing, Shanghai, Taipeh and Tokyo directly to Delhi and to Gaya to facilitate the tourists and pilgrims; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) For tourists and pilgrims interested in visiting India from China, there is direct connectivity by air from Beijing and Shanghai to Delhi.

(b) and (c) Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei and Tokyo are already connected by air to Delhi. However there is no direct connectivity from these points to Gaya. The designated airlines of China and Japan have the facility under the existing arrangements with India to choose Gaya as a point of call for commencement of air services as per their commercial judgement. Tourists and pilgrims can however utilize

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the domestic services of Indian carriers to Gaya. Moreover, they can also fly directly to Gaya on charter flights.

Vision - 2020

900. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the Vision-2020 document prepared by his Ministry for aviation sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that consolidation of Indian Aviation Sector is taking place very rapidly;

(c) whether the document has been approved by Cabinet; and

(d) if so, what would be its impact on the fares and passenger traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a), (c) to (d) The National Civil Aviation Policy is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM).

(b) A process of consolidation is taking place in airline industry which is considered a normal industry phenomenon.

Entry of Pawan Hans in regional airline market

901. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that PSU Pawan Hans is exploring plans to enter regional airline market with a fleet of small fixed wing aircrafts that can seat about 20 passengers;

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure that up-coming districts in tribal belt of Vidarbha, like Yavatmal, are given first preference for introducing such a service; and

(c) whether subsidy is also given to Pawan Hans if they find that the route is not initially viable as is being done in North East districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has submitted Expression of Interest to North Eastern Council for running passenger services using small Fixed Wing aircraft in response to their advertisement for the same.

(b) and (c) At present, PHHL has no plan for introducing services by small Fixed Wing aircraft in Vidarbha.